

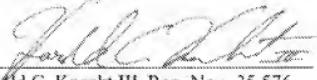
**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 27, 31 to 35 and 38 to 42 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9 and 12 have been amended. Allowable dependent claims 36 and 37 have been incorporated into their corresponding independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Allowable dependent claim 30 has been incorporated into its corresponding independent claim 12. Claims 28 and 29 were previously cancelled, and claims 30, 36 and 37 have been cancelled by this amendment.

The above amendment to the claims obviously places the subject application in condition for allowance, as indicated by the Final Office Action and the latest Decision on appeal from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Therefore, pursuant to MPEP § 1214.07, it is submitted that the above amendment should be entered and the subject application allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

1/16/07  
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Date

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